The Matanuska Susitna College

MONITOR

Febuary 1, 2000 - Febuary 29, 2000

WE'RE BACK!

By Elrond Sheppard

You may have heard the buzz around campus about the return of the Mat-Su Monitor, or maybe you didn't and this comes as a total surprise to you. Either way we're back. Not quite in full force, and definitely not the way we would like to have this paper to be but we're getting there. On page 7 there are a few invitations for those that want to volunteer their time to help make this paper worth the time to read. Not that it isn't right now, mind you, but what I have invisioned for the paper is far better than what your holding in your hand. Consider this issue a bit of a rough draft of what is to come.

I want this paper to encompass everything that is Mat-Su College. I want this paper to be a forum for every student. I want the Mat-Su Monitor to be the schools paper, not just the student government's paper, or just the faculty's paper, or just my paper. I want every student to be involved in the creation of the Mat-Su Monitor, whether it is just in submitting ideas for the type of content that should be in the paper or in submitting articles. I want the faculty to be involved in submitting im

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The President is Coming!

Scartch that. The President was here. No, not President Clinton. University of Alaska President Mark Hamilton will be here on Febuary1. President Hamilton was available to visit with student's in the Atrium between 2:00-2:30 in the afternoon. The Student Body Government provided pizza and beverages in the Atrium in lieu of President Hamilton's visit. "The student leadership at the university of Alaska has a very strong voice with me and the board of regents," he said at the Northwest Student Leadership Conference. "If students want to be heard, they will be heard. There's no ifs, ands, or buts about it."

We will have an article in the next issue about his visit and the topics of his discussion.

Rams win Super Bowl XXXIV

In a surprise nail biter, St. Louis robs Tennessee of the last yard of a late comeback, winning 23-16. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow could keep the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans from staging one of the greatest Super Bowls ever played.

Disregard the un-Atlanta-like weather that messed up travel plans and practice schedules and made some cranky journalists long for the more traditional NFL title game surrounded by palm trees. They played Super Bowl XXXIV under a roof. And once the Rams and Titans took the field inside the Georgia Dome Sunday, nothing on the outside

Super Bowl continued on page 7

The Peoples Media

The Internet has become the media for people to reconnect with the political process - By Elrond Sheppard

Vice President Al Gore coined the term "Information Super Highway" when he was a member of Congress. Since then the Net has become a part of everyone's life one way or another. Here are some statistics for you: 80 million people are connected to the Net today, and 50 million people surf the Net on a daily basis. All across our society the Net is slowly eliminating intermediaries, and is reshaping how people live. People are increasingly buying their clothes, books, food, pharmaceuticals, compact discs, and a long list of other products through the Net without ever setting foot in a store. People bypass travel agents commissions and purchased air tickets online. Look what the Net has done for investing opportunities, and the movie industry (The Blair Witch Project). People on and off the Net are touting the 2000 presidential election as the one in which the Net transforms politics the way it has commerce and entertainment.

There is no doubt how much television, newspapers, and magazines have transformed people's lives, but they are being put on the back burner as the Net takes control. Politicians recognized the power of television when war broke out in the Persian Gulf, and when Ross Perot practically moved into Larry King's studio. Still, the Press has alienated Americans who are now walking through the door that science and technology has opened by expressing their views over the Net. The press has told us what to think, how to believe, and how to respond to events they report on. Thus the "political game" has become a cynical blood sport that far fewer people seem interested in, or believe it has much relevance to their daily lives. It seems that Americans have become as skeptical about journalists as they are towards elected officials, bureaucrats, and lawyers. The Net alone certainly can't solve the problem of alienation people feel they have from politics and civic participation. But it can instantly connect citizens with candidates and their campaigns, and the candidates can connect and learn what the people feel about issues affecting them. That synergy just might lift the American democracy out of its "funk".

More Americans are participating in politics and civic life via the Net than ever before. Average voters – no longer politically isolated, no longer sitting passively in front of their TV sets – are networking around the world, and intensely debating the news of the day. The arrival of the Net and the World Wide Web offer vast new opportunities to revitalize American politics, and to reconnect average voters with the process.

Instead of concentrating almost totally on a television "air war", political campaigns must return to the old-fashioned notion that citizen volunteers are a valued asset. Democracy does, after all, belong to the people. Maybe that explains the success of Jesse Ventura, the Reform candidate in Minnesota, who used the Internet to stage a remarkable come-from-behind victory. He bypassed the disdainful mainstream media gatekeepers, beat both the Democrats and the Republicans, communicated directly with voters and mobilized 3,000 volunteers over the Internet. These volunteers spread the candidate's message and news of his campaign with enthusiasm.

They used their computers and other new technologies to build a virtual campaign organization. Volunteers

Movies around town

The Hurricane

In June 1966, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was a strong contender for the middleweight boxing title. When three people were murdered in a New Jersey bar, Carter's dreams were destroyed. Driving home from a nearby club, Carter was erroneously arrested for the murders and sentenced to serve three life terms in prison. Several years later, Carter's published memoir, The 16th Round, inspired a Brooklyn teenager and three Canadian activists, who believed in the truth, to join forces with Carter to prove his innocence. Their extraordinary efforts, commitment and love ultimately secured his release, leaving "Hurricane" to sum up his 20 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit by simply stating, "Hate got me into this place, love got me out."

Starring

Denzel Washington, Deborah Unger, Liev Schreiber, Vicellous Shannon, John Hannah

Directed by Norman Jewison

Girl, Interrupted

In 1967, after a session with a psychiatrist she'd never seen before, Susanna Kaysen was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder-an affliction with symptoms so ambiguous almost any adolescent girl might qualify-and sent to a renowned New England psychiatric hospital where she spent the next two years in a ward for teenage girls. There, Susanna loses herself in an OZ-like nether world of seductive and disturbed young women: among them Lisa, a charming sociopath who stages a disastrous escape with Susanna, Daisy, a pampered girl with a predilection for rotisserie chicken, and Polly, a remarkably kind burn victim. Ultimately, assisted by the hospital's head psychiatrist, Dr. Wick, and a no-nonsense ward nurse, Valerie, Susanna, like Dorothy, resolves to leave this Oz and reclaim her life.

Starring

Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Whoopi Goldberg, Clea Duvall, Vanessa Redgrave

Directed by James Mangold

Any Given Sunday

Although professional football provides the action-packed backdrop of Any Given Sunday, the film takes a simultaneously epic and intimate look at the men and women who comprise the milieu of the film, from the modern-day gladiators of the gridiron, their coaches and often beleaguered families, to the money loaded team owners and business executives who attempt to control the game as big business, to the hungry sports media, and those hanging on trying to get a taste of the glamour.

Starring

Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid, Jamie Foxx, Jamie Foxx, Cameron Diaz

Directed by Oliver Stone

Man on the Moon

Man on the Moon, starring Jim Carrey, as the late Andy Kaufman who was considered the most innovative, eccentric and enigmatic comic of his time. A master at provoking audiences, Kaufman could generate belly laughs, stony silence, tears or brawls. Danny DeVito also stars in Man on the Moon as Kaufman's manager, George Shapiro, with Courtney Love co-starring as Lynne Margulies, the woman who befriends and eventually falls in love with the comic. Paul Giamatti portrays Kaufman's best friend and writer, Bob Zmuda. Well-known Vegas lounge singer Tony Clifton stars as himself.

Starring

Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito, Courtney Love, Paul Giamatti, Budd Friedman

Directed by Milos Forman

Mat-Su College Art Events

February 28	Eggs-ibition due date
March 6	Eggs-ibition reception
March 18	Eggs-ibition ends
March 27	High School Potfolios due
March 29	Art Dept. open house for High Schools
March 29-31	Portfolio show
April 3	Juried Student Show - Due date for entries
April 10	Juried show reception
April13	Edible art show
May 8	Juried show ends

Dates for other events will be announced as they become available. To find out more contact the Art Club.

745-9742

Alaska Airlines Plane Crash

Investigators are trying to learn why an Alaska Airlines jet with 88 people plunged into the Pacific. It's now known that at least five Alaskans were on that flight. The plane was headed from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to San Francisco and then scheduled to fly to Seattle, Washington.

The MD-83 went down around 3:00 p.m. Alaska Time, about 20 miles northwest of Los Angeles International Airport. The crew reportedly radioed a problem with the stabilizer trim, which keeps the plane flying level, and requested to land in Los Angeles. Witnesses say the plane was last seen floating on its top before it eventually went under. It's believed the wreckage is now resting 125 feet below the water's surface.

Coast Guard officials say several bodies have been pulled from the water. They continued to pull debris and search for victims during the evening.

Local Alaska Airlines officials plan to release a passenger list. The airline is taking names and phone numbers of people who may have had friends or family on the plane, but operators are not providing information.

Top Ten Internet Downloads

1 Go!Zilla
2 Paint Shop Pro
3 ICQ (32-bit)
4 Photocopier
5 WinZip (32-bit)
6 QuickTime
7 WebFerret
8 Netzip Download Demon
9 Jet-Audio Plus
10 StayOn Pro

Techno Babble

Music on your PC

Just about the hottest thing on the Internet right now are MP3's. It's so hot, in fact, that MP3 - the most popular format for downloaded music - is the second-most popular search term on search engines. MP3 files make using your computer fun. They're easy to use, and despite what you may have heard, they're not necessarily illegal.

What Is MP3?

MPEG (pronounced EM-peg) is an acronym for Motion Picture Experts Group and comprises a set of standards for compressing and storing digital audio and video. MP3 is short for "MPEG Audio Layer 3," and it identifies a way to store digital audio files. MP3 files give you near CD-quality sound in a file format that requires roughly 1MB for every minute of sound. (CDs and WAV files, by contrast, require about 11MB per minute.) A single song or track in MP3 format usually takes up between 3MB and 5MB, a reasonable download even at 28.8kbps. It is even possible to create a DVD disk containing more than 80 hours of music. As a result, a profusion of MP3 web sites, newsgroups, and ftp sites have sprouted up across the Internet.

MP3 Requirements

To play MP3 files, you'll need at least a 75MHz Pentium computer with 16MB of RAM (creating MP3 files requires a Pentium 133 or better with 32MB of RAM), a 16-bit sound card, a CD-ROM drive, and speakers or headphones. You'll also need a lot of hard disk space to store MP3 files: At 3MB to 5MB per file, you can fill up a hard disk very quickly. Budgeting a couple of gigabytes of disk space is not unreasonable.

The most important piece of MP3 software is the player, which decodes an MP3 file and outputs the sound to your sound card and therefore to your speakers. Many players offer additional features, including spectrum analyzers, equalizers, frequency displays, and so on. One of the neatest features of some players is the ability to create your own user interfaces, known as skins or themes. The most popular standalone MP3 players for Windows are Winamp and Sonique. Most players also have built-in playlist editors, which let you create and save lists of the songs you want to play.

Finding MP3 Files Online

MP3 files aren't illegal just because they're MP3 files, but there are many files that violate copyrights and therefore are illegal. (Almost everything found in MP3 newsgroups falls into this category.) If you created an MP3 file of the latest CD and posted it on the Internet without the owner's permission, you'd be guilty of a federal crime: a violation of the No Electronic Theft Act of 1997, or NET, which makes it a felony to create or distribute unauthorized digital music. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is a watchdog organization for this kind of abuse.

As a result of all this attention, most large MP3 sites are only distributing authorized MP3 files. This lets you download files from an enormous number of artists. If you like the music, you can buy the CD - like shareware for music.

The most popular MP3 Web site is MP3.com, which gets about a quarter of a million hits a day. MP3.com has an extensive selection of free files for downloading. You can also get the latest MP3 software, read breaking news about MP3 and digital music, and download FAQs and technical information. Other web sites worth looking at are the audiodiner, Dimension Music, and Songs.com.

On the Lighter Side

Alaska's Schoolchildren Call For Cuts In Math and Science Funding

Thousands of schoolchildren descended on Juneau the other day to demand drastic cuts in math and science funding for public schools calling current levels of funding "unconscionably excessive".

"Something must be done about the bloated education budget," said Steve Pazensky. "Each year, math- and science-education funding sucks an estimated $40 million out of taxpayer wallets. How much longer will we as a nation continue to prioritize the teaching of things like algebra and biology? Besides, you can just use a calculator anyway, so why learn all that math?"

"The U.S. has the most advanced space program in the world," Pazensky continued. "We invented, among other things, the microchip, the PC and the Internet. We cured polio. Are these the accomplishments of a nation that lags in math and science education? Clearly not. But like a bloodthirsty leech, federal expenditures on laboratory equipment, textbooks and flash cards continue to go up and up each year."

When asked where funds currently going toward math and science education might be better spent a friend to Pazensky suggested field trips.

Shocking as it may be, our nation's students barely get to go on two field trips a year. This leaves them woefully ill-prepared to enter a world in which they will frequently find themselves taking trips. Adults don't sit behind desks all day listening to boring teachers—they get in vehicles and go places. How else will kids learn how to do this than by taking field trips?

Pazensky also recommended an increase in gym-class funding. "While we are wasting our precious time memorizing multiplication tables and learning the parts of a flower," Pazensky said, "a Norwegian child is gaining vital physical-education skills that will prepare him for a productive career in dodgeball the day he leaves high school."

Reaction to the schoolchildrens agenda has been mixed. While the group has been praised by Burger King Kids' Club officials, many education leaders are dismayed by its call for math and science cuts.

Welcome *continued from front page*
portant information for students, or in submitting articles also. I want this paper to inform, entertain, and represent the school and it's students in every aspect possible. In order to complete all the things I want the Mat-Su Monitor to be I need involvement by the faculty, the various clubs of this school, and every student of Mat-Su College.

I want to provide every club with up to a page for whatever they want to submit. Perhaps submitting the meeting times, schedules of events happening within your club, how those events faired, or even an article about an event happening in the world that affects your club. English students, or just students period, can submit articles or stories to be printed. Anyone that has any questions or any other comments can contact me at elrondshep@hotmail.com or leave me a message in the Student Government office.

Super Bowl *continued from front page*
mattered. All you had were two teams playing football about as well as it can be played — playing with as much heart and grit and effort as I've witnessed in any Super Bowl in recent memory. A game of yards — hundreds of yards — came down to mere inches for the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXIV. The Tennessee Titans scored on three consecutive drives to tie the score at 16-16. No matter your loyalty, this one made your heart pump a little faster and your fingernails get a little shorter. If you were still in your seat, you jumped out of it as the final seconds ticked off and St. Louis linebacker Mike Jones desperately clung to the legs of Kevin Dyson, keeping the Titans' wide receiver only inches from the end zone to seal the Rams' 23-16 victory.

Ultimately, the Rams snuffed the Titans' valiant comeback attempt. But through both teams' remarkable performance, a great Super Bowl was born.

Invitations to students

Reporters

We need at least two volunteers that are willing to research, investigate, and write articles on issues affecting students and the school. Reporters will help the editor and others plan out the contents of the paper. If you think you would be a good reporter, then contact Elrond at elrondshep@hotmail.com, or catch me in the Student Government office.

School Clubs

Alright clubs. We need you to start submitting information to print in this paper. We print and put the paper out on the first of every month, and we need your submissions a week before we print. Each club gets up to a page for information. Don't worry if you can't send in that much information, we just don't want more than a page worth.

All Students

We need massive participation from all of you. We would at least like to hear what you think of the paper, and even throw some ideas our way. Got some stories, or some issues you would like to see research and reported on? Contact the paper in the Student Government office. Got any questions? Send them in and we'll do our best to answer them for you.

Alvin Okeson Library

745-9740

Hours:

Monday	9am - 9pm
Tuesday	9am - 9pm
Wednesday	9am - 9pm
Thursday	9am - 9pm
Friday	9am - 9pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm
Sunday	Closed

Peoples Media *continued from page 2*
turned their home computers, phones and fax machines into valuable political campaign tools, at a fraction of the cost of traditional television campaigning. Through his web site, Ventura also raised more than $60,000—mostly in $25, $50, and $100 contributions rather than in big contributions from special interests. This new campaign style gives citizens themselves a chance to be more involved in politics—and not just as envelope stuffers. The "five-minute activist" can keep up with the campaign and spread the word to friends and colleagues.

In my view the Internet and the World Wide Web should be used to bypass the cynical mainstream media filter that constantly interprets, paraphrases and psychoanalyzes political leaders and limits their comments to 20 second sound bytes. New Media can reconnect people with leaders and fellow followers, help them develop a deeper understanding of the issues, and feel like part of a political community again. It can challenge individuals to take responsibility for why things are the way they are rather than the all to common refrain today – to throw your hands up in exasperation and say, " all politicians are a bunch of crooks who are trying to screw me." We have every right to insist that the media stop carping about the personal inadequacies of political figures and refocus instead on the content of their ideas. Traditional mainstream journalists do a good job of holding politicians accountable. We would not want them to stop asking skeptical questions or stop their hard-hitting exposes. But a good question remains, "Who will watch the watchdogs?" One answer may be the denizens of the Internet.

Employment Opportunity

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!
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Call MediCard 1-541-386-5290, ext. 300

Cancer society funds marijuana patch study

Associated Press

Scientists are planning research on whether a marijuana patch, similar to the patches that help smokers kick the habit, could help ease the suffering of cancer patients. The American Cancer Society is funding a three year, $361,000 grant for research at the Albany College of Pharmacy.

The marijuana patch could ease the pain, nausea and vomiting that chemotherapy patients can suffer, said Gail Tyner-Taylor of the American Cancer Society of New York and New Jersey. No such patch exists now, but Dr. Audra Stinchcomb, an assistant professor who researches medications transmitted through the skin, will explore whether it is feasible.

Half a dozen states have offered the ballot measures to legalize marijuana as medication, but the drug is banned by federal law and doctors hesitate to prescribe it, even in states that legalized its medical use. The Justice Department is challenging voter approved laws in Alaska, Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington. Alaska will offer voters a chance to legalize marijuana on a future ballot.